1905MNRAS..65..343.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society on the 8th of June 1855, and has been a most constant attendant at the meetings. He frequently spoke, often contributing a shrewd observation and an amusing anecdote to the discussion. He served on the Council from 1866 to 1879, and with two short intervals from 1886 to 1904.

Captain Noble assisted in the foundation of the British Astronomical Association, and was chosen as its first President, the assistance and impetus he had given to amateur astronomy clearly marking him out for this post.

The humour and invariable cheerfulness of Captain Noble, combined with his deep interest in the welfare of the Royal Astronomical Society and of astronomy in general, made him very welcome and valuable both at the Council and the meetings of the Society.

Captain Noble died on the 9th of July 1904 after an illness of several months' duration. Mrs. Noble had died in 1899 after a married life of forty-eight years. One son survives him.

Admiral Sir Erasmus Ommanney, K.C.B., was born on the 22nd of May 1814. He entered the Navy at the age of twelve, and assisted at the landing of the British Army at Lisbon in 1827, and served as a midshipman on board the *Albion*, the flag-ship of his uncle, Sir John Acworth Ommanney, in the battle of Navarino. In 1835 he served as lieutenant with Captain (afterwards Sir James) Ross in an expedition to relieve whaling vessels ice-bound in Baffin's Bay. In 1840 he was appointed to the command of the steam sloop *Vesuvius*, and was actively employed in the Mediterranean for several years. In 1850 Captain Ommanney served as second in command under Captain Austin in an expedition sent by the Admiralty to discover the fate of Sir John Franklin. He travelled in sledges over five hundred miles, being away from his ship for sixty days, and discovered that Franklin and his companions had spent their first winter on Beechey Island. Shortly after his return to England the Crimean war broke out, and he was given command of the White Sea Squadron, which bombarded Archangel and other ports. He was promoted to be rear-admiral in 1864, when his active service with the fleet ceased. In 1875 he retired under the age limit.

Admiral Ommanney's most important scientific work was the geographical information he obtained in his Arctic explorations. He was one of the oldest members of the Royal Geographical Society. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1868. He served on the Council of the British Association, and was treasurer in 1884 on the occasion of the visit to Canada. In 1885 an honorary LL.D. was conferred upon him by the University of Montreal.

Sir Erasmus Ommanney was one of the oldest Fellows of the Royal Astronomical Society, having been elected on the 14th of

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1905MNRAS..65..343.

January 1853. During his long connexion with the Society he had the good fortune to witness several of the most interesting astronomical phenomena of last century. In 1866 he observed the shower of *Leonid* meteors, and sent a brief description to the Society. He observed the transit of *Venus* at Luxor on the 12th of December 1874, Sir William Abney and Dr. Auwers being at the same station. A short account of an aurora borealis seen at Ilfracombe, given by him in the *Monthly Notices* for November 1870, is interesting from the remark: "During all my Arctic voyaging I never witnessed in any aurora the same conditions of varied colouring as were displayed on this occasion."

Admiral Ommanney died on the 21st of December 1904 at the residence of his son, St. Michael's Vicarage, Portsmouth.

William Montgomery Pierson, of San Francisco, was a lawyer of prominence in California. He was born in 1842, and after receiving the ordinary education of the State schools was admitted to practise law before he attained his majority, a special Act of the State Legislature being passed expressly for the purpose. He became law partner of Henry H. Haight, afterwards Governor of California. Notwithstanding an active business life, he found time to devote to astronomy, and was well known on the Pacific coast as an excellent amateur astronomer. He took a prominent part in the formation of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, and was chosen as Vice-President, succeeding Dr. Holden as President. Till his death he remained on the Board of Directors, the Finance and Comet Medal Committees. He fitted out at his own expense an expedition to observe the total solar eclipse in India in 1898. This expedition was directed by Professor Burckhalter, who used a rotating occulting plate to obtain an exposure of suitable length in different parts of the corona. In 1903 he presented his 8-inch reflector to the University of California. His loss was deeply felt by many American astronomers belonging to the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. He died in November 1904. Mr. Pierson was elected a Fellow of the Society on the 9th of January 1891.

Eyre Burton Powell, M.A., C.S.I., was for many years Director of Public Instruction in the Madras Presidency. He was one of the oldest Fellows of the Society, being elected on the 13th of January 1854. He had a small refractor in the grounds of the Government Native College at Madras, and frequently observed comets, double stars, &c., working in co-operation with Captain Jacob, the Hon. East India Company's Astronomer. His first contribution to the Society's publications is in 1854, when he communicated a series of observations of Comet II. of that year and a determination of its elements, and pointed out that these agreed with those of a comet observed in 1677 by Hevelius. In 1856 he forwarded to the Society his observations of 130 double stars made in the years 1853–4–5. These are published in vol.

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